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## McMAHON NAMED CHIEF OF POLICE BY NEW COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Ken Ulman announced Dec. 5 that he has selected William J. McMahon to fulfill the Chief of Police position in his new administration. A 20-year veteran of the police department, McMahon was appointed by former County Executive Jim Robey in June to serve in an acting capacity upon the retirement of then Chief Wayne Livesay.

McMahon's appointment was Ulman's first official act as County Executive.

"With public safety a top priority, I believe this is one of the most critical appointments of my administration," Ulman said. "There is no one in my estimation who is better equipped to lead the Howard County Police Department than Bill McMahon. I have every confidence that the department and the residents of Howard County will be well-served by Chief McMahon and the continuity of service his appointment brings."

At a news conference announcing the appointment, Ulman and McMahon focused on the issues of police staffing, youth crime and services for senior citizens.

"This is a tremendous honor and an exciting opportunity," McMahon said upon his appointment. "County Executive Ulman has already demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety during his years on the County

Council, and I look forward to working with him as part of his administration."

McMahon joined the HCPD after spending two years as a police officer for the Maryland National Capital Park Police. Since then, he



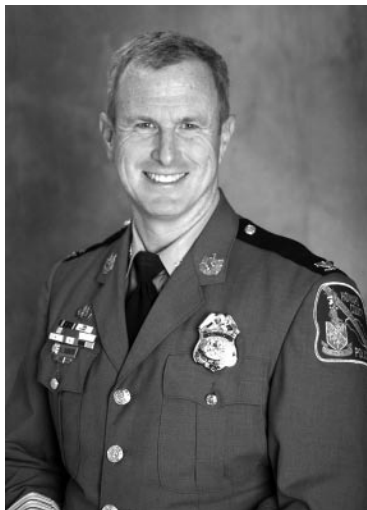
*County Executive Ken Ulman named Bill McMahon as Chief of Police on Dec. 5.*

has held every sworn police rank and worked in almost every area of the department.

Early in his career, McMahon served as a patrol officer and K-9 officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 1990 and served in the tactical section, patrol operations and internal affairs. In 1996, McMahon was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to lead the special operations bureau. During this assignment, he was promoted to captain in 1998. In 2000, he took over command of the management ser-

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## CHIEF'S MESSAGE *BY CHIEF WILLIAM MCMAHON*



On December 5, 2006, newly elected County Executive Ken Ulman announced that he was appointing me to be the 10th Chief of Police for the Howard County Police Department. I was both honored and humbled to accept that appointment. We have an excellent agency with a proud history and a challenging future. As with any great organization, our success comes from our people. It is with great pride every-

day that I put on our uniform and know that I will be working with such a dedicated group of officers, civilians and volunteers. Although we have state of the art equipment and technology, our people are what makes us great. To the extent that Mr. Ulman's appointment of me is a reflection of what we have accomplished over the last few months, I thank each of you for your work and dedication.

These are exciting times for our Department and for our County. We have a new County Executive and a new County Council, each of whom recognize the importance of public safety. Frankly, I would not have accepted the offer if I did not think I would have their support of this Department and our responsibilities. The challenge for all of us is to build on the successes of our past and ensure that we are prepared to meet the many new challenges we will face. Howard County is a great place in which to live, work and visit and is renowned for its great schools, parks, libraries and other amenities. None of this happens, however, unless our citizens and visitors are safe and feel safe. That is our mission. We will continue to find creative ways to reduce crime, improve traffic safety, meet the needs of our citizens and provide a high quality of public service.

As honored as I am to be asked to lead this great agency, I am fully aware that I benefited from the opportunities I was given and from the work of those around me. Chiefs Rappaport, Chaney, Robey and Livesay provided me with many opportunities and assignments, as well as their guidance. Their legacies have set the bar high for what is expected of the Howard County Police Chief. Over the last 20 years, I have also benefited from the advice

and examples of many, many people.....peers, supervisors, friends...too many to mention in this limited space. I also know that the reputation and support we enjoy today is based on the work of those who came before us. Those officers and civilians who have had the same passion for public service since our Department was formed in 1952 have set the standards for what it means to be a member of the Howard County Department of Police. Finally, as all of you know, police work is a job that is not done individually, but one that impacts family. Obviously, my parents, siblings and extended family have provided tremendous support to me...and none of this would be possible without the love and support of my wife and children.

Again, these are exciting times for the Department. We have many challenges ahead of us. We will respect the traditions of our past but we can also each expect change. I know that can be unsettling, but we must always ensure we are using the best and most creative ways to achieve our goal of ensuring the public's safety. I look forward to your support and, more importantly, your input as we move forward.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CHIEF

With this issue of The Beat, we bring to a close the year 2006, which has been a busy one for all of us. In a year that has brought about significant change, there was plenty to keep us busy above and beyond our usual workloads. Thanks to everyone for pitching in and handling each event successfully and safely for our citizens.

I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work, dedication and immeasurable contributions made by all of our employees and volunteers. I know that it's a busy time and many may have to work, but I hope you find time to enjoy the holidays

As we look forward to another year, it is my sincere hope that each of you enjoys happiness, health and prosperity. I thank you all once again for a successful 2006 and I look forward to working with you in 2007. Have a very happy holiday season!

Chief Bill McMahon

## HCPD: LIFE AFTER DARK

Officers assigned to night shift in Howard County are a rare breed of people. They have to work their 12-hour shifts, wait around for court at the end of the shift, and often have to come back to court in the afternoon...only to start a scheduled shift all over again. Often this results in a more than 15-hour work day, not counting any commuting time from home.

Thankfully, the Howard County Police Department has dedicated men and women that are willing to go out there night after night and do great police work.

This month, we're looking at some of the excellent statistics that night shift continues to display, despite the cold weather, harrowing schedule and sleep deprivation.

In the Southern District, it was a close race between P3C and P3E. Sgt. Mary Levy's squad, P3C, handled 278 calls for service, 61 arrests, 18 DUIs and wrote 400 pieces of traffic. Sgt. Wall's squad, P3E, handled 490 calls for service, 62 arrests, 10 DUIs and wrote 291 pieces of traffic.

In the Northern District, Sgt. Coon's squad, P2A, handled 433 calls for service, 66 arrests, 21 DUIs and wrote 433 pieces of traffic. P1B, supervised by then acting-Sgt. Shiplett, handled 539 calls for service, 66 arrests, 8 DUI's and wrote 322 pieces of traffic.

As a whole last month, night shift officers handled more than 4,000 calls for service, made 450 arrests, charged 92 individuals with DUI, and wrote over 3,300 pieces of traffic. *J. Myers*

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CHIEF, from cover

vices bureau and then became the southern district patrol commander in 2001. In 2002, McMahon was promoted to the rank of major and appointed deputy chief of police for operations. In that role, he was responsible for all operational components of the agency, including emergency preparedness, intelligence, patrol, special operations and criminal investigations. McMahon served as deputy chief until his appointment to acting chief of police.

McMahon has a Bachelor's degree in law enforcement from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree in administrative science from Johns Hopkins University. He is a national assessor for the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies and performs site visits at police departments around the country. He is a certified instructor with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission and is a member of both the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Locally, McMahon serves on the board of directors for the Howard County Domestic Violence Center and is a member of the Howard County Family and Sexual Violence Council. He serves on the board of advisors for the traffic safety group Courtesy on the Road and is a graduate of Leadership Howard County. McMahon volunteers his time with Special Olympics Maryland and Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April, a program that assists low-income homeowners in Howard County.

McMahon, 44, and his wife Annette reside in Ellicott City with their three children. *Reprinted from news release.*

## 2006 HCPD AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

It is that time of year again; snowflakes fall, holiday decorations go up, and yearly award submissions are due!

Each year, HCPD asks supervisors, civilians and fellow officers to take some time to recognize the outstanding efforts of the department's employees.

Now is the time to start working on your submissions so that adequate consideration can be given to them by the awards committee, and so that the efforts of our excellent employees do not go unrecognized! Submissions for the major awards must be submitted to Sgt. William Porter in HR by January 15.

## HCPD MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM OVERSEAS

As we enter the holiday season, let's take time to think of those HCPD members who are deployed on active military duty. Cpl. Eric Brown, PFC Al Davila, and PFC Juan Cooper, are all currently serving our country in deployed locations.

Cpl. Brown is serving in the United States Army as a Major. He is currently deployed to Cuba.



PFC Davila is a Special Agent (E-6) in the United States Coast Guard, and is serving locally with the Joint Terrorist Task Force.

PFC Cooper is a Drill Sergeant with the United States Army, and is training new recruits at Ft. Leavenwood, Missouri. *J. Myers*

## GIVING THANKS TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER

While we're giving thanks this year to all that we have-health, happiness, home, friends and family-we might forget to remember those men and women who make our jobs easier everyday. They are there, day in and day out, never asking for anything in return, but always willing to give their time and energy to us-for free! We'd like to take some time to thank and recognize the volunteer police auxiliaries who are out on the streets with us, helping us in every way they can.

Howard County Police currently has 11 men and women in gray. Some of them are fairly new, and some of them have enough medals above their breast pocket to make them walk lopsided.

This year, the combined number of hours volunteered by the auxiliaries is 5,483. (That's 41 hours per month, per auxiliary, on average!) They have responded to 652 motorist assists, processed 2,388 abandoned vehicles, 279 police officer assists, handled 1,065 parking complaints, and made 3,567 area checks and 1,392 senior citizen checks. In addition to all this, they have served at 102 special events throughout the year.

Each of these numbers represents a call or event that a patrol officer was not required to respond to, allowing them to respond more quickly and efficiently to another, possibly more urgent call, or enabling them to conduct radar enforcement or other necessary activity. *J. Reidy*

## upcoming EVENTS

DECEMBER  
13

Bear Trax Holiday Party

6:00 p.m.

Oakland Mansion

(contact Ms. Ann Roach)

DECEMBER  
16

Shop With A Cop

9:00 a.m.

Columbia Crossing Toys-R-Us

(contact Sgt. Mary Levy)

DECEMBER  
16

HCPOA/FOP Children's Party

1:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church,

Ellicott City

(contact Cpl. Jason Baker)

DECEMBER  
18

Centurions for Justice

Holiday Party

6:00 p.m.

7120 Oakland Mills Rd.

(contact Ofc. Stephanie Wall)



# MAKING THE BEST OF YOUR HOLIDAY

## SAFETY TIPS FOR YOU AND YOURS

This holiday season, keep your homes and wallets safe from opportunistic thieves-and remind your friends and family to do the same. Follow these simple tips for ensuring a stress and crime-free holiday.

### WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE, USE COMMON SENSE TO PROTECT AGAINST FRAUD OR ID THEFT

- Familiarize yourself with the policies of online stores and auctions.
- Only shop with companies you know.
- Keep your information private and keep your password secure.
- Shop safely with credit cards online — you are liable for \$50 maximum if you are billed a fraudulent charge, according to the National Consumer's League.

### DON'T SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park in a well-lit area, close the windows and lock the car.
- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks or credit cards whenever possible. Know how much you're willing to spend and stick to it!
- Don't get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you.

### MAKE SURE YOU DON'T INVITE CRIME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Arrange for a trusted neighbor to pick up any packages delivered to your house while you're away or at work.
- Never display gifts where they can be seen through windows or doors.
- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Ask for identification and call their main office to verify their employment.
- It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification and how the funds will be used. Donate to a charitable organization you trust and respect instead.
- After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for the garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place in a dark garbage bag.

## PLAN YOUR WAY TO A STRESS-FREE HOLIDAY!

Get out your calendars and set these weekly goals in order to keep your holidays enjoyable instead of stressful!

**DECEMBER 1-7:** Buy or create your holiday cards for family and friends. Start decorating your house little by little so you don't have to do it all in one weekend. Pull out your holiday lights and make sure they are all in working order. Create a gift list. Send out invitations or make phone calls to invite friends to any holiday party you may be having. Order any online gifts so they arrive on time!

**DECEMBER 8-14:** Put up your exterior holiday lights. Purchase or set up your holiday tree, menorah or other decorations. Send out holiday cards to friends and family. Set aside a few days to get the majority of your gift shopping done...and don't forget to buy wrapping paper and tape!

**DECEMBER 15-21:** Finish your gift buying. Bake your holiday cookies. Clean house if you're having guests. Host your holiday parties. Make your grocery list if you're hosting a big holiday dinner for your family. If you have kids and expect a visit from Santa, make sure you have milk, cookies and carrots in the house.

**DECEMBER 22-31:** Wrap all gifts. If you're traveling a distance for the holidays, pack your car with emergency supplies, including food, water, salt and kitty litter in case you get stuck in bad weather. Enjoy your family and friends during the holidays! Buy champagne or sparkling cider for New Year's Eve. If it didn't go exactly as planned, don't worry—remember, it's not the food or the gifts that make holidays worthwhile, it's spending time with your family!

## JANET STABILE NAMED CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER

Janet Stabile has been selected as the Outstanding Civilian for the third quarter of 2006. Her dedication, motivation, and volume of work have been exceptional. Janet has provided outstanding service to the Auto Theft Unit, CIB and the Howard County community.

Janet routinely provides VIN etching to cars to reduce auto theft crimes and increase recovery after an incident. She coordinates large community VIN etchings and adjusts her schedule to accomplish this. During this quarter, one of the VIN etchings had to be cut short due to weather. Janet later made arrangements to pay a personal visit to the homes of those individuals affected by the cancellation to ensure that the vehicles received the etching without further inconvenience.

In July, an elderly victim of a car theft was notified that her vehicle was recovered and stored at the Baltimore City Tow Yard. The victim was in the hospital and unable to retrieve her car and the fees were in excess of \$500. Janet worked with a member of the Baltimore Police Department and negotiated a waiver of fees. She then enlisted the assistance of the community resource officer who worked with the victim and a roommate to obtain several

notarized forms to allow the car to be removed in her absence. She even responded to the victim's residence and the tow yard to facilitate the process.

After days of phone calls and personal involvement, transportation arrangements were secured and the vehicle was delivered to the victim's residence.



Janet has established many valuable contacts during her 8-year tenure as an Auto Theft Specialist for the HCPD. Recently, she utilized her contacts at MVA to conduct a search for a vehicle involved in a series of robberies. As a result, the detectives were provided with information in a timely manner to be reviewed for additional investigative leads. *S. Llewellyn*

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## JASON BAKER NAMED INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Earlier this month, Cpl. Jason Baker was named Instructor of the Year by the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission. He was nominated by Lt. Mark Joyce and recognized for taking a leading role in the Education and Training Division during a time of change and increased workload.

Due to personnel changes that resulted in the loss of both coordinators for Academy 29, Cpl. Baker volunteered to take on the challenge of becoming primary coordinator, in addition to his other previously assigned duties. Cpl. Baker was also responsible for training a newly selected coordinator, teaching the drill and ceremony portion of the academy, assisting with the firearms training, and researching and selecting new defensive tactics equipment. He took on all these roles without issue or complaint.

As the unit faced multiple challenges over the last several months, Cpl. Baker's dedication, commitment and teamwork mentality allowed the unit to not only continue to function, but to excel. He is deserving of this award and the Education and Training Division, and rest of the department, congratulates him! *J. Reidy*

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## NEW ARRIVALS

Brandon & Leah Lapp are proud to announce the birth of their son, born Dec. 6. Nathan Brandon Lapp weighed in at 8 pounds, 14 ounces! Congratulations!



## OFFICER OF THE MONTH: OFC. CHRIS WILLIAMS

Chief of Police William J. McMahon selected Police Officer Christopher Williams as Police Officer of the Month for September, 2006.

During the month, Williams performed in an exceptional manner. He handled 84 calls for service, 10 of which were insights. He made 10 criminal arrests, four traffic arrests and two DUIs. In total, Williams had 49 traffic contacts and received four Memorandums of Recognition.

On Sept. 2, two suspects robbed the Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits, Snowden River Video and a Citgo Gas Station. Williams took the little suspect information available and located the suspect vehicle at a McDonald's on Benson Dr. Evidence was located linking the suspects to the crimes and the suspects were identified by the victims. Not only were these three cases solved, but the suspects were later linked to three other robberies.

The same night, Williams responded to a report of a robbery in Elkridge, committed by three or four suspects. Based on the information provided by the victims, he recognized one of the suspects from a prior robbery. Armed with this information, he and other officers located three suspects. The suspects were identified by the victims, and the arrests were made. Two of the suspects have pending

robbery charges.

Williams handled another armed robbery call Sept. 27 at 999's bar. During the investigation, Williams was able to locate the suspect vehicle and identify the suspect. Through the investigation, he discovered a possible "chop shop." Because of his observations, auto theft detectives were able to take over this part of the investigation.



Williams went over and above his assigned duties with HCPD. While off-duty, he volunteered his personal time by assisting The Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital "Believe in Tomorrow" organization. For this event, he spoke to children stricken with cancer. He told the children what it means to be a police officer and gave them a tour of a marked police vehicle. Officer Williams' efforts in September helped make Howard County a safer place. *J. Myers*

## HCPD WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

It's a time of exciting change in the Howard County government. On Dec. 4, an almost entirely new county council was sworn-in. The council consists of five members who serve four-year terms from five separate districts. As the legislative branch of government, the council's primary responsibility is approving the laws for Howard County. Welcome to our new legislators!



*New Howard County Council members (L to R) Courtney Watson (Dist. 1), Calvin Ball (Dist. 2), Jen Terrasa (Dist. 3), Mary Kay Sigaty (Dist. 4) and Greg Fox (Dist. 5).*

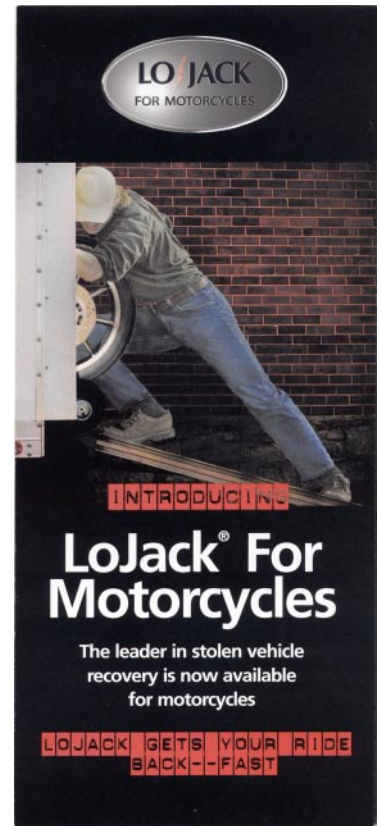
# LOJACK RECOVERS MOTORCYCLES WITH 100 PERCENT SUCCESS

Did you know that the stolen vehicle recovery system LoJack is now available on motorcycles? The system was made available for motorcycles in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area in February. According to LoJack, more than 55,000 motorcycles get stolen in the U.S. and Canada every year.

Since the system became available for motorcycles in this region, there has been a 100 percent recovery rate, according to Ron Stout, the local LoJack representative. Of the 27 motorcycles stolen since February in Howard County, 27 were recovered. Along with the LoJack recoveries, HCPD officers recovered an additional 36 stolen motorcycles without the system, discovered five "chop shops" and made 11 arrests.

One example of the system's effectiveness is a recent case of PFC Mark Richmond's. While at the intersection of Washington Blvd. and Waterloo Rd. in November, Richmond received a locator signal. The hit came back to a stolen Suzuki motorcycle. Following the signal, he was led to a construction site near Harbour Dr., where he observed an unoccupied van. Inspection of the van revealed that it contained three motorcycles, one of which was the stolen Suzuki. The van and the remaining motorcycles were also stolen.

The Howard County Police Department started utilizing the stolen vehicle recovery system in 1996. More than 70 officers have been trained to use the system and several vehicles throughout both districts are equipped with the system. *J. Myers*



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